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Serial No. 10/689,943

PATENT APPLICATION

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1           1. (currently amended) A weight adjustable rodent trap, comprising:  
2           a housing having a bottom wall and a top wall and defining an interior space;  
3           a ramp extending substantially between said bottom and top walls at an oblique angle,  
4           said ramp situated to define an entry opening adjacent said top wall so as to  
5           enable a rodent to enter into said interior space through said entry opening after  
6           ascending said ramp;  
7           a platform fixedly mounted to said ramp adjacent said entry opening and extending into  
8           said interior space in a horizontal configuration, said platform having at least one  
9           metallic element situated thereon;  
10          a trip board pivotally mounted in said interior space and movable between a set  
11          configuration atop said platform and a tripped configuration rotated relative to  
12          said platform, said trip board having a magnet positioned thereon that is  
13          magnetically attracted to said at least one metallic element for biasing said trip  
14          board toward said set configuration until a weight of said rodent is placed upon a  
15          portion of said trip board to cause said trip board to move to said tripped  
16          configuration; and  
17          means in said interior space beneath said trip board for containing said rodent, said  
18          rodent being deposited into said containing means when said trip board is moved  
19          to said tripped configuration by said rodent's weight thereon;  
20          wherein said platform defines a plurality of platform grooves spaced apart along said  
21          platform, each platform groove having a configuration for removably receiving  
22          said at least one metallic element;

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23 said trip board defines a plurality of trip board grooves spaced apart along another  
24 portion of said trip board, each of said trip board grooves corresponding to a  
25 respective platform groove and having a configuration for removably receiving  
26 said magnet;  
27 wherein said containing means includes a container positioned in said interior space  
28 atop said bottom wall, said rodent being deposited into said container when said  
29 weight thereof is placed on said one portion of said trip board causing said trip  
30 board to move from said set configuration to said tripped configuration;  
31 wherein said ramp is pivotally coupled to said bottom wall and movable between a  
32 closed configuration enabling said rodent to ascend said ramp and an open  
33 configuration for enabling user access to said container, said container being  
34 removable from said interior space when said ramp is at said open configuration  
35 and  
36 means for locking said ramp in said closing configuration.

1 2. (canceled)

1 2 / (original) The rodent trap as in claim 1 wherein said containing means  
2 includes a container positioned in said interior space atop said bottom wall, said rodent being  
3 deposited into said container when said weight thereof is placed on said one portion of said  
4 trip board causing said trip board to move from said set configuration to said tripped  
5 configuration.

1 4. (canceled)

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1 5. (canceled)

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1 3 ~~5~~. (original) The rodent trap as in claim 1 wherein said containing means is a ~~glue~~  
2 strip positioned in said interior space atop said bottom wall, said rodent being deposited ~~onto~~  
3 said glue strip when said weight thereof is placed on said one portion of said trip board ~~and~~  
4 said trip board is moved from said set configuration to said tripped configuration.

1 4 ~~7~~. (currently amended) The rodent trap as in claim 1 further comprising:  
2 a plurality of probes each having a generally arcuate configuration pivotally mounted  
3 in said interior space above said trip board, said plurality of probes being  
4 movable between a first configuration extending substantially between said top  
5 wall and said trip board and a second configuration rotatably displaced from said  
6 first configuration such that said rodent is enticed to urge said plurality of probes  
7 toward said second configuration, said plurality of probes having sharp tips,  
8 respectively, that are slightly displaced from said trip board at said first  
9 configuration;  
10 whereby said plurality of probes are rotated from said first configuration to said second  
11 configuration by forward movement of said rodent and said rodent is discouraged  
12 from reversing course by said sharp tips.

1 5 ~~7~~. (original) The rodent trap as in claim <sup>4</sup>~~7~~ further comprising a stop member  
2 mounted in said interior space adjacent said plurality of probes for preventing said plurality  
3 of probes from rotating toward said entry opening, whereby to prevent said rodent from  
4 reversing course and escaping after first engaging said plurality of probes.

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1        **6** ~~8~~. (original) The rodent trap as in claim 1 further comprising:  
2        a side wall oppositely disposed from said ramp, said side wall having a panel that is  
3        removable from said side wall so as to provide selective access to said interior  
4        space;  
5        a bait container removably mounted to an interior surface of said panel; and  
6        wherein said top wall and said side wall define a plurality of apertures for enabling a  
7        scent from said bait container to escape from said housing.

1        **7** ~~10~~. (currently amended) The rodent trap as in claim **4** ~~2~~ further comprising a  
2        handle coupled to said top wall of said housing for carrying said housing.

1        **9** ~~11~~. (currently amended) The rodent trap as in claim **8** ~~21~~ wherein an outer surface  
2        of said ramp includes a carpet layer;  
3        said rodent trap further comprising a front wall extending between said bottom wall and  
4        said top wall, said front wall being constructed of a transparent material.

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10  
12. (currently amended) A weight adjustable rodent trap, comprising:

1 a housing having a bottom wall and a top wall and defining an interior space;

2 a ramp extending substantially between said bottom and top walls at an oblique angle,

3 said ramp situated to define an entry opening adjacent said top wall so as to

4 enable a rodent to enter into said interior space through said entry opening after

5 ascending said ramp;

6 a platform fixedly mounted to said ramp adjacent said entry opening and extending into

7 said interior space in a horizontal configuration, said platform having a metallic

8 element situated thereon;

9 means for selectively positioning said metallic element on said platform;

10 a trip board pivotally mounted in said interior space and movable between a set

11 configuration atop said platform and a tripped configuration rotated relative to

12 said platform, said trip board having a magnet positioned thereon;

13 means for selectively positioning said magnet on said trip board, whereby said magnet

14 is magnetically attracted to said metallic element for biasing said trip board

15 toward said set configuration until a weight of said rodent is placed upon a

16 portion of said trip board causing said trip board to move to said tripped

17 configuration;

18 means in said interior space beneath said trip board for containing said rodent, said

19 rodent being deposited into said containing means when said trip board is moved

20 to said tripped configuration by said rodent's weight thereon;

21

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22 a plurality of probes pivotally mounted in said interior space above said trip board, ~~said~~  
23 plurality of probes being movable between a first configuration extending  
24 substantially between said top wall and said trip board and a second configuration  
25 rotatably displaced from said first configuration; and  
26 means for biasing said plurality of probes toward said first configuration, whereby said  
27 plurality of probes are rotated from said first configuration to said second  
28 configuration by said rodent and said rodent is discouraged from reversing course  
29 as said plurality of probes are biased to return to said first configuration  
30 wherein said plurality of probes each include a generally arcuate tip that is slightly  
31 displaced from said trip board when said plurality of probes are at said first  
32 configuration such that said rodent is enticed to urge said plurality of probes  
33 toward said second configuration, said each arcuate tip prodding said rodent in a  
34 forward direction along said trip board if said rodent attempts to reverse course  
35 and  
36 a stop member mounted in said interior space adjacent said plurality of probes for  
37 preventing said plurality of probes from rotating toward said entry opening,  
38 whereby to prevent said rodent from reversing course and escaping after first  
39 engaging said plurality of probes.

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1 <sup>10</sup>13. (original) The rodent trap as in claim ~~12~~ wherein:  
2 said means for positioning said metallic element includes a plurality of platform  
3 grooves spaced apart along said platform, each platform groove having a  
4 configuration for removably receiving said metallic element; and  
5 said means for positioning said magnet includes a plurality of trip board grooves spaced  
6 apart along another portion of said trip board, each of said trip board grooves  
7 corresponding to a respective platform groove and having a configuration for  
8 removably receiving said magnet.

1 <sup>10</sup>14. (original) The rodent trap as in claim ~~12~~ wherein said containing means  
2 includes a container positioned in said interior space atop said bottom wall, said container  
3 adapted to receive said rodent when said weight thereof is placed on said one portion of said  
4 trip board causing said trip board to move from said set configuration to said tripped  
5 configuration.

1 <sup>12</sup>13. (original) The rodent trap as in claim ~~14~~ wherein said ramp is pivotally  
2 coupled to said bottom wall and movable between a closed configuration enabling said rodent  
3 to ascend said ramp and an open configuration for enabling user access to said container, said  
4 container being removable from said interior space when said ramp is at said open  
5 configuration.

1 <sup>10</sup>14. (original) The rodent trap as in claim ~~12~~ wherein said containing means is a  
2 glue strip positioned in said interior space atop said bottom wall, said rodent being deposited  
3 onto said glue strip when said weight thereof is placed on said one portion of said trip board  
4 causing said trip board to move from said set configuration to said tripped configuration.

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1 claims 17-19 (canceled)

15 10  
1 20. (original) The rodent trap as in claim 12 further comprising:  
2 a side wall oppositely disposed from said ramp, said side wall having a panel that is  
3 removable from said side wall so as to provide selective access to said interior  
4 space;  
5 a bait container removably mounted to an interior surface of said panel;  
6 a front wall extending between said bottom wall and said top wall, said front wall being  
7 constructed of a transparent material; and  
8 wherein said top wall and said side wall define a plurality of apertures for enabling a  
9 scent from said bait container to escape from said housing.

8 4  
1 21. (newly added) The rodent trap as in claim 7 further comprising:  
2 a side wall oppositely disposed from said ramp, said side wall having a panel that is  
3 removable from said side wall so as to provide selective access to said interior  
4 space;  
5 a bait container removably mounted to an interior surface of said panel; and  
6 wherein said top wall and said side wall define a plurality of apertures for enabling a  
7 scent from said bait container to escape from said housing.



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**16**

- 1 ~~22~~. (newly added) A weight adjustable rodent trap, comprising::
- 2 a housing having a bottom wall and a top wall and defining an interior space;
- 3 a ramp extending substantially between said bottom and top walls at an oblique angle,
- 4 said ramp situated to define an entry opening adjacent said top wall so as to
- 5 enable a rodent to enter into said interior space through said entry opening after
- 6 ascending said ramp;
- 7 a platform fixedly mounted to said ramp adjacent said entry opening and extending into
- 8 said interior space in a horizontal configuration, said platform having at least one
- 9 metallic element situated thereon;
- 10 a trip board pivotally mounted in said interior space and movable between a set
- 11 configuration atop said platform and a tripped configuration rotated relative to
- 12 said platform, said trip board having a magnet positioned thereon that is
- 13 magnetically attracted to said at least one metallic element for biasing said trip
- 14 board toward said set configuration until a weight of said rodent is placed upon a
- 15 portion of said trip board to cause said trip board to move to said tripped
- 16 configuration; and
- 17 means in said interior space beneath said trip board for containing said rodent, said
- 18 rodent being deposited into said containing means when said trip board is moved
- 19 to said tripped configuration by said rodent's weight thereon;
- 20 wherein said platform defines a plurality of platform grooves spaced apart along said
- 21 platform, each platform groove having a configuration for removably receiving
- 22 said at least one metallic element;
- 23 said trip board defines a plurality of trip board grooves spaced apart along another
- 24 portion of said trip board, each of said trip board grooves corresponding to a

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25           respective platform groove and having a configuration for removably receiving  
26           said magnet;  
27           wherein said containing means includes a container positioned in said interior space  
28           atop said bottom wall, said rodent being deposited into said container when said  
29           weight thereof is placed on said one portion of said trip board causing said trip  
30           board to move from said set configuration to said tripped configuration;  
31           wherein said ramp is pivotally coupled to said bottom wall and movable between a  
32           closed configuration enabling said rodent to ascend said ramp and an open  
33           configuration for enabling user access to said container, said container being  
34           removable from said interior space when said ramp is at said open configuration;  
35           a side wall oppositely disposed from said ramp, said side wall having a panel that is  
36           removable from said side wall so as to provide selective access to said interior  
37           space;  
38           a bait container removably mounted to an interior surface of said panel;  
39           a front wall extending between said bottom wall and said top wall, said front wall being  
40           constructed of a transparent material;  
41           wherein said top wall and said side wall define a plurality of apertures for enabling a  
42           scent from said bait container to escape from said housing; and  
43           wherein an outer surface of said ramp includes a carpet layer.